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Nevada High School Equivalency (HSE) Certificate Policies

On Friday, October 4, 2013, the Nevada State Board of Education approved three new high school equivalency assessments to be used throughout Nevada starting January 1, 2014. The new tests will provide the basis for awarding a *Nevada Certificate of High School Equivalency* by the Nevada Department of Education.

The Board voted to approve a new computer-based GED® test (from GED Testing Service®) as well as two alternative assessments as Nevada's official HSE tests. The two new alternative tests approved by the Board, the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET®) (from Educational Testing Services) and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC™) (from CTB/McGraw-Hill), will allow for either computer- or paper-based testing. The new GED® test will be offered only via computer. All three assessments cover the same content areas and allow test-takers to demonstrate proficiency in the academic skills expected by employers and postsecondary institutions.

Requirements for Issuance of Certificate:

The Superintendent of Public Education will issue a *Nevada Certificate of High School Equivalency* to an individual who meets the eligibility requirements for high school equivalency testing and achieves minimum passing scores on each of the individual subtests of a state-approved HSE assessment.

Minimum Passing Scores:

The minimum passing scores on the subtests for each state-approved high school equivalency assessment are:

GED®: a standard score of 150 on each of the four subtests.

HiSET®: a standard score of 8 on each of the five subtests, with a minimum score of 2 on the essay portion of the writing test, and an average standard score of 9 on the five subtests.

TASC™: a standard score of 500 on each of the five subtests, with a minimum score of 2 on the essay portion of the writing test.

All scores must be from subtests in the same language and within the same assessment system.

Educational Status Requirements for Testing:

Any person who:

- a) Has not graduated from a high school in the United States which is accredited by a regional association; and
 - b) Is not currently enrolled in a high school nor required to be enrolled.
- is eligible to take the tests if he or she meets the other requirements.

Age Requirements for Testing:

Any person who:

1. Is 18 years of age or older is eligible to take the tests if he or she meets the other requirements.
 - a. The board of trustees of a school district may, upon request and for good cause shown, grant permission to take the state-approved high school equivalency assessments to a person who resides in the school district and who is at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age. Parental permission is also required.

Required Identification:

Test-takers must present valid and current photo identification on the test day at the state-approved HSE test center. A valid driver's license or other form of government issued identification that shows name, date of birth, signature and photograph are acceptable forms of identification. The identification should match the demographic information provided during test registration.

Residency:

Test-takers must be residents of Nevada to take an HSE exam. There is no minimum residency length requirement. Test-takers are required to show proof of residency prior to testing.

Exception:

Nevada has a "Good Neighbor" policy that allows persons living near the Nevada border in adjacent states to test in Nevada if the Nevada testing center is closer than a testing center in their own state. Test-takers must meet the eligibility requirements of their home state and of Nevada. Certain other restrictions may apply, so test-takers must check with the Nevada testing center before registering.

Combining Test Scores:

1. Scores from subtests of differing languages cannot be combined.
2. Test scores between the three state-approved HSE assessments cannot be combined (e.g. TASC™ scores and HiSET® scores). Scores from different versions of an exam (e.g. GED® 2002 series and the GED® 2014 series exams) cannot be combined.
3. Test scores achieved from different delivery methods within the same assessment system may be combined (e.g. a math score from computer-based testing and a writing score from paper-based testing.)
4. Test scores achieved in state jurisdictions outside of Nevada may be combined with test scores achieved in Nevada. Test scores must be from assessment system that is approved for use at the time of import. It is the responsibility of test-takers to provide an official report of testing history prior to testing in Nevada.

Requirements for Retesting:

1. An applicant who takes a high school equivalency assessment for the first time must complete the entire battery of subtests before the applicant may be retested on any of subtests.
2. An applicant who completes his or her initial assessment but fails to achieve the minimum scores may be retested on the individual subtest or subtests which the applicant failed.
3. All retests must be administered on alternative test forms.
4. An applicant may be retested any number of times, although the availability of alternative forms of the assessment may limit the number of possible retests. The assessment vendor may also impose limits on the number of times a person may take a subtest in a calendar year or other time period.
5. Applicants may be retested on individual subtests that they have previously passed in order to increase their score. Retests on previously passed subtests must be on alternative test forms within the same assessment system as the previously passed subtest (e.g. a test-taker wishing to increase his or her HiSET® math subtest score must retest with a HiSET® math subtest, and so forth).
6. Students who have previously passed a state-approved High School Equivalency assessment may not take a different HSE assessment (e.g. a test-taker who has passed a TASC™ test may not take the HiSET® or GED®, or vice-versa).

Issuance and Availability of Certificate and Official Transcripts:

Upon passing the minimum requirements, test-takers are eligible to receive one *Nevada Certificate of High School Completion* (suitable for display purposes) and one official transcript at no cost. Additional official transcripts are available from DiplomaSender, LLC.

Initial certificate and transcript are mailed to the test-taker address provided at test registration.

All Nevada HSE transcripts and verification requests are available exclusively from DiplomaSender, LLC. The Nevada Department of Education does not process HSE transcripts or verification requests.

GED® transcripts for tests administered prior to 2002 require a test-taker to initiate [an archive request](#) at DiplomaSender.

Online requests: www.diplomasender.com

Telephone requests: (855) 313-5799

Questions:

General support: support@diplomasender.com

Agency support: agencysupport@diplomasender.com

Pricing:

Full Exam Battery:

A full exam battery consists of one of each of the subtests that make up the complete assessment. HSE assessment vendors may offer benefits to purchasing a full exam battery over purchasing each subtest individually. Testing centers may limit the number of sessions

that a test-taker may sit for (e.g. most full battery exams are administered in one or two sessions).

GED®

The GED® is only available on a per subtest (module) basis. Each subtest is \$23.75. The total price for the four GED® subtests is \$95 (4 x \$23.75). Purchase of a subtest includes up to two discounted retakes on failed subtests. Subtests may be scheduled individually. Payment is collected by GED Testing Service® at time of scheduling.

HiSET®

The total price for the HiSET® exam battery is \$65 (\$50 test vendor fee and \$15 test center administration fee). Purchase of the full battery includes up to two discounted retakes on failed subtests. Fees must be paid directly to the test center and are due at the time of scheduling.

TASC™

The total price for the TASC™ exam battery is \$65 (\$52 test vendor fee and \$13 test center administration fee). Purchase of the full battery includes up to two discounted retakes on failed subtests. Fees must be paid directly to the test center and are due at the time of scheduling.

Individual Subtests:

GED®

The GED® is only available on a per subtest (module) basis. Each subtest is \$23.75. Purchase of a subtest includes up to two discounted retakes on failed subtests. Payment is collected by GED Testing Service at time of scheduling.

HiSET®

The total price for a single HiSET® subtest is \$20 (\$15 test vendor fee and \$5 test center administration fee). Fees must be paid directly to the test center and are due at the time of scheduling.

TASC™

The total price for a single TASC™ subtest is \$15.40 (\$10.40 test vendor fee and \$5 test center administration fee). Fees must be paid directly to the test center and are due at the time of scheduling.

Retesting on Failed Subtests:

High school equivalency exam vendors may offer free or discounted retakes on failed subtests. Test-takers are responsible for a small test center administrative fee (\$3.75-\$5.00) when scheduling any free or discounted subtest retake.

Credit Card Processing Fees

Testing centers may charge for the recovery of merchant transaction processing fees when they accept payment in the form of credit cards, debit cards, and other non-cash methods.

Applicable Regulation and Code:

NRS 385.080 Regulations
NRS 385.448 Selection of assessment by State Board; eligibility to take assessment;
permission of board of trustees required under certain circumstances;
regulations
NAC 385.402 Purpose
NAC 385.404 Eligibility to take tests; duties of school district
NAC 385.406 Identification required
NAC 385.408 Minimum passing scores
NAC 385.410 Initial testing and retesting
NAC 385.420 Certificate of educational equivalence.

Nevada State High School Equivalency Administration:

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Brad Deeds, Nevada State High School Equivalency Administrator
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